

WILLIAM BLADES.

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JANUARY 19, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. KIRKPATRICK, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9717.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9717) granting an increase of pension to William Blades, having carefully considered the facts presented, respectfully report:

William Blades enlisted as a private in Company B, Third Missouri Volunteer Cavalry, December 16, 1861, and was honorably discharged December 20, 1864, after three years' arduous service.

He applied for pension August 11, 1890, alleging rupture in right side, stiff joints and limbs, and affected hearing of both ears, contracted in the service in line of duty, and the board of examining surgeons at Lyons, Kans., rated him, July 8, 1891, at eight-eightieths for hernia right side, and fifteen-thirtieths for partial deafness of both ears, and find him at that date 76 years of age, and affected with some rheumatism and pharyngeal catarrh, and the action of his heart irregular, intermitting every third or fourth beat.

The medical and lay testimony filed in the Pension Bureau shows him totally incapacitated for any kind of manual labor in 1890.

He was pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for hernia and senile debility.

He has a record of having been in hospital from January 1, 1863, to February 28, 1863, and as attached to hospital as cook in August, 1863; but no record is found of the disabilities for which he was treated. Like hundreds of others who were late in applying for pension, he is now unable to establish his disabilities as due to service origin.

The medical and lay testimony filed with the committee shows this soldier now paralyzed and totally helpless, confined to his bed since June 27, 1896, and requiring the constant aid and attention of another person.

The committee, in consonance with numerous precedents, recommend the passage of the bill, with an amendment striking out the word "seventy-two," in line 7, and inserting the word "thirty" in lieu thereof.